



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Vancouver
Study Session
Minutes
July 9, 2004

I. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. Roll Call.

Commissioners present: Diana Avalos, Faviola Barbosa, Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Gabriel Portugal, Homero Tamez, and Rebecca Villareal.

Commissioners absent: Gabriel Banfi (excused), Leo Gaeta (excused) and Karla Padilla-Reyna (not excused).

Staff present: Uriel Iñiguez and Cindy García

III. Commissioner Activity Report.

Commissioner Villareal:

- Meet with Radio Sol to talk about PR.
- Made contact with NW Minority Business Council's Showcase 2004 in Bellevue.
- Member of the newly formed Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE).
- Working with obtaining a partnership (MOU) with City of Seattle – Office of Economic Development and with the Small Business Administration.

Commissioner Tamez:

- Meet with Carol Danserau of the Farmworker Pesticide Project.
- Will be meeting with L&I director on the 28th of July.
- Has been meeting with concerned immigrants regarding the immigration sweeps in Eastern Washington. Has been talking to the community gathering information about incidents.

Commissioner Avalos:

- Working with Senator Cantwell's office on how they can become more visible and more of a resource in the Latino community in the Vancouver area.
- Has drafted an outline of a summer event that will engage the Latino community to participate in an activity with the Vancouver Police Department and other agencies.

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- Planning on meeting with Lorne Stanford from Labor and Industries (L&I). Mr. Stanford discussed strategies on outreach to the Latino community in Clark County area. Also stated that there is now a bilingual Spanish representative in Vancouver and also a Russian representative.
- Will be meeting with Mike Johnson from DSHS on how they can outreach the Latino community to help them bring exposure to the programs and services that are available.
- Dialoguing with Andrew Holguin regarding grant money and grant writing.
- Working with Wes Pruitt from the Vocational Board. Board has put together a Hispanic dropout report.
- Trying to get in contact with Antonio Sanchez to start working on the Lieutenant Governors' project to address the Hispanic drop out rate.
- Working with Tec board on writing guidelines for the bilingual educators conditional scholarship. Should be available this September.
- Working with local branch WSU diversity task force how to bring in more students of color to Vancouver and to local community college.
- Meet with chief of police to discuss how to help the police department with recruitment efforts.

Commissioner Portugal:

- Working with the Pasco Police Department on a community survey to find out how police services are perceived by the Hispanic community.
- Tri-Cities Cinco de Mayo event planning and planning for October event. October event is to provide scholarships for non-traditional students.
- Continued appearances on weekly radio show.
- Working on South West Voter Registration Project.
- Working with a group in the eastside of Pasco, looking at areas of abandoned cars, lights, and speed signs.

Commissioner Barbosa:

- Working on farmworker housing in Wenatchee.
- Brewster school issue. Emailed notes from PAC meeting in May. Working with Maria Cantwell staff, and LULAC.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton:

- Working with El Centro. Wilma Cartegena is leaving. No funding for El Centro yet. AHANA may take the center so it can move into their office.
- Inland Empire Hispanic Association Disbanded.
- Working on Multicultural Candidate forum.
- Working with community leaders on a career day for students of color. Panelists for career day will be people of color.
- Working on interpreting issues. Decision was made to document the issues to determine if a pattern exists.
- Wells Fargo Bank just lowered their fees for transferring money to Mexico. Looks like Bank of America and US Bank will follow lead.

IV. Committee Reports

Emergent Issues:

- Working on Pesticide issue with Carol Danserau of Farmworker Pesticide Program.
- Immigration sweeps.
- Legislative agenda.

Economic Development:

- Have recruited community members for the Committee.
- Had a conference call in June.
- Committee discussed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Partnerships with to help small businesses. Possible MOU with HUD.
- Lynn Hamilton, Interim Director, of US Small Business Association would like to partner up with the Commission. Juan Aguilar of Washington Mutual committed his bank to be able to pay for the food for the reception.
- Discussed holding one-day conferences meetings for small businesses some time in November – on a Saturday.
- Discussed marketing strategies.

Education Committee:

- Submitted drafts for annual report.

Personnel Committee:

- Forwarded three names in law enforcement to Governor's office. A fourth name was suggested by the Governor's office, Ruben Baca.
- Commissioner Tamez send letter of interest to serve a second term on the Commission.
- Commissioner Karla Padilla-Reyna indicated that she is going to resign her position. Have not yet received her formal resignation letter. Cannot proceed with recruitment until this letter is received.

V. Legislative Agenda: The Legislative Agenda needs to be completed by October. Acting Director Iñiguez mentioned the Commissioners should review the legislative recap from the draft annual report. The recap listed unfinished items and that may be a good place to start drafting the legislative agenda. It was agreed that the following items should be the Commissions legislative priorities for 2005:

- Senate Bill (SB) 6268 Considering Ethnicity and race in admissions to higher education institutions.
- House Bill (HB) 2195 WASL although it became a law, work with OSPI and Governors office to see what they plan to do to prepare students to retake the portions of the WASL test they did not pass. Address specific problems of students who are learning English.
- House Bill (HB) 3029 Matricula Consular.
- DREAM Act.

- SB 6599 Monitoring Cholinesterase
- House Bill (HB) 2863 Providing certain public notices in other than English in public service sector.

In addition, the Commission will continue to support Immigration reform.

Action Step: Acting Executive Director, Uriel Iñiguez and Executive Assistant, Cindy García, will type a draft of the Legislative Priorities for 2005 and send to Commissioners for approval prior to Yakima meeting in September. Commissioner Barbosa will make a motion at the public meeting to accept the priorities set forth in the study session.

VI. Annual Report: Commissioners received a draft of Annual Report. Were instructed to review and make changes to Report.

Action Step: Cindy will email Annual Report to Commissioners so they can make changes/suggestions electronically. Commissioner should email changes/suggestions to Cindy by the 26th of July. Second draft will be ready by the 28th of July.

VII. Per Diem Rate Change: Acting Executive Director Iñiguez informed the Commissioners that their reimbursement for meal periods would be changing effective July 1, 2004. Instead of being paid on a per hour basis, Commissioners will now be paid a flat per diem rate, just as staff is.

Action Step: Language needs to be changed in Administrative Policies to reflect change in travel reimbursement. Staff will do this.

VIII. Joint Commission Meeting: Acting Executive Director Iñiguez informed the Commissioners of the potential dates for changing the Joint Commission Meeting. The first sets of dates are November 20th & November 21st. Acting Executive Director Iñiguez informed the Commissioners that these dates would not be very successful because of elections. The other set of dates were December 2nd & 3rd. Acting Executive Director recommended the second set of dates. Commissioner Barbosa suggested we have the Joint Commission Meeting on the 2nd and 3rd. Commissioner Lopez-Morton suggested we have a serious study session/retreat on the 2nd in the evening and on the 3rd during the day. We could have a working lunch session with the Commissioners from the other Commission. The Legislative Reception would be on the 3rd and the public meeting would be on the 4th.

It was asked if this should be a joint meeting of all the minority commissions. Commissioner Tamez suggested we hold the meeting on our own. Commissioner Lopez-Morton suggested it would give the Commissioners an opportunity and a responsibility for Commissioners to interact with the Commissioners from the other minority Commissions and inform them of how the meeting went and what issues were brought forth. Commissioner Portugal suggested the Commission extend an invitation to the other Commissions.

Action Step: Commissioner Barbosa will make a motion at the public meeting. Dates will be December 2nd – December 4th. Study Session will be on 3rd, the Legislative reception will be on the 3rd and public meeting will be on the 4th.

Action Step: Acting Executive Director will speak to Directors of other minority commissions to ask if they would like to participate

IX. Latino Legislative Day: Cindy handed out copies of the survey sent to community organizations, along with a copy of the survey. Requested that Commissioners review the list of organizations and make suggestions for other organizations.

X. Immigration Sweeps: Main question is what will the Commissions response be. All information the Commission has now, are comments. Most of these comments are second hand some may be first hand. Comments need to be legitimized. Commissioner Tamez informed the Commissioners that many businesses are suffering because of the rumors. Commissioner Portugal stated that the situation is very new. The Commission is not at a point where it has all the information from all sources. Acting Executive Director stated that he has spoken to Claudia Arana from Senator Cantwell's office. Ms. Arana has received different responses from ICE. At this point the Commission is not prepared to state what it is going to do, there is not enough information. We can state we are working with Senator Cantwell's staff, to get information. Once information is received we will make a statement. Ms. Arana will attend the public meeting to answer questions and clarify the issue for us.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.